



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting  
April 12, 2022

**Regional Coalition & Washington Communities for  
Children (WCFC) Updates**

**Regional Coalition Update**

**Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast**

For more information, please contact: Colleen Condon, [colleen@lilaccityelc.com](mailto:colleen@lilaccityelc.com)

- Members have continued to engage in our Equity work with Erin Jones, focusing on our mission and vision together
- In partnership with Spokane Regional Health District, data was collected from parents about resource access and navigation in our local community
- Several members are participating in workgroups with our local school district to coordinate planning for early learning expansion in our community
- We have planned time for discussions on Transitional Kindergarten and the role it plays in our local communities

**Investing in Children Coalition: Central**

For more information, please contact: Lindsay Bowsell, [lindsayb@yakimavalleycf.org](mailto:lindsayb@yakimavalleycf.org) or Marina Medrano, [marinam@yakimavalleycf.org](mailto:marinam@yakimavalleycf.org)

In collaboration with WithinReach and the Vida Agency, Help Me Grow/ Ayúdame a Crecer Central WA has launched a series of online ads promoting Help Me Grow to English and Spanish speaking audiences. The ads went live on Friday, March 4th. As of March 21st, the English ads have received a total of 117, 655 impressions and 241 clicks whereas the Spanish ads have received 19,168 impressions and 148 clicks.

Additionally, thanks to regional and statewide efforts during WCFC Advocacy Week, WCFC's \$900K funding ask was approved by legislators and will help WCFC continue their yearly operations. Central Washington would like to thank our legislators from the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> district for meeting with Investing in Children Coalition members during WCFC's Advocacy Week and for approving WCFC's budget proviso.

**King County**

For more information, please contact: Laurie Bohm, [bohml@childcare.org](mailto:bohml@childcare.org)

*No update to share at this time.*

**North Central**

For more information please contact: Nancy Spurgeon, [nspurgeon49@gmail.com](mailto:nspurgeon49@gmail.com) or Molly Draben [molly@cisnorthcentralwa.org](mailto:molly@cisnorthcentralwa.org)

*No update to share at this time.*

## Regional Coalition Update

### Northwest

For more information please contact: Linden Obel, [linden@nwelcoalition.org](mailto:linden@nwelcoalition.org)

### Regional Highlights + Opportunities

- **WA STEM Early Learning Catalyst grant was awarded:** This year, we focused dollars to support the continued work of the child care task forces in Island and San Juan Counties and will support Springwood Forest School in conducting explorations around culturally responsive, place-based STEM curriculum. Snohomish will build on their Math Anywhere training and expand regional opportunities, including developing an asynchronous training to improve accessibility.
- **WCFC Advocacy Week success:** The WCFC Advocacy Week was a great success, and legislators across our region were interested in staying engaged in the regional and local coalitions' activities. We hope to strengthen relationships and partnerships with our district legislators and are amidst coordinating follow-up communications and meetings.
- **Regional and local fundraising:** Our regional Advocacy & Fundraising Workgroup is up and running, and we are excited to build off the great momentum from Advocacy Week. The regional coalition has significant funding gaps in operations costs to fill for quarter four of 2022, so we are putting a lot of time and energy toward this. We're also excited about any collaborative fundraising work we can do with other WCFC regions.
- **Communications overhaul:** We are working to update our website, strengthen our social media management, and create new communications materials to grow visibility of the region and WCFC. By gathering stories of impact from our local communities, we hope to illustrate the value of having a coordinated, synchronous network at local, regional, and state levels. You can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nwelcoalition/>
- **Participating in Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant:** San Juan and Island Counties move forward with ECCS grant project planning as part of the first cohort, and we look forward to testing processes for updating and maintaining resource directories. With lots of energy across the state around interoperability, we're excited to work with Open Referral to promote how various resource pathways and touchpoints for families can better integrate.

### County Highlights

- **Skagit** is hosting a free perinatal mental health two-part training for providers and allied health professionals on Tuesday, April 12, 6:30-8 p.m. and follow-up session Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8 p.m. Register here: <https://perinatalsupport.org/event/skagit-co-pmh-training/>
- **Whatcom** launched a Parent Leadership Training Institute pilot in partnership with WA Family Engagement. Learn more about the PLTI program here: <https://www.wafamilyengagement.org/>
- **San Juan** opened a new co-op preschool, a big win after many closures during the pandemic.
- **Island** will formally house the child care collaborative task force that facilitated the county's child care demand study and recommendations as part of the Department of Commerce grant.
- **Snohomish** continues to partner with Refugee & Immigrant Services Northwest to design and implement culturally-appropriate outreach to underserved populations.

### Current and Ongoing Priorities

- Building regional and county-level partnerships to explore, design, implement, and support continuous quality improvement of resource system navigation and access through a community-driven, 'no wrong door' approach.
- Developing a policy and advocacy agenda and securing flexible funding for regional coordination and capacity-building.

## Regional Coalition Update

NWELC strives to establish a coalition infrastructure that is beneficial to all counties, optimizes unique strengths and assets, reduces inequities, and supports children, families, providers, and communities.

### Peninsula Early Learning Coalition

For more information, please contact: Marlaina Simmons, [marlaina.simmons@kitsapstrong.org](mailto:marlaina.simmons@kitsapstrong.org) and Elisia Anderson, [elisiaf\\_fstep@olypen.com](mailto:elisiaf_fstep@olypen.com)

*No update to share at this time.*

### Project Child Success, Pierce County

For more information please contact: Masa Kawamura, [masak@first5fundamentals.org](mailto:masak@first5fundamentals.org)

*No update to share at this time.*

### Southeast

For more information, please contact: Matt Bona, [mbona@esd123.org](mailto:mbona@esd123.org)

### Benton Franklin Early Learning Coalition -

- Created three sub committees that are meeting monthly between our coalition meetings: Policy and Advocacy, Community Initiatives (currently Vroom and Bright by Text) and Governance and Strategic Planning.
- Policy and Advocacy engaged in the Legislative Q&A led by WCFC. They also held follow-up meetings in January, February, and March. We had a select few participate in WCFC Advocacy week calls with legislators.
- Community Initiatives provided two STARS trainings for early learning providers. One was offered in English and the other in Spanish. During the training both resources were introduced and the trainer's illustrated ways in which they can be used to support families. We also demonstrated ways that Vroom and Bright by Text could be rolled out simultaneously. This work was done in collaboration with the Snohomish County Health District and Partners for Early Learning.
- The Governance and Strategic Planning committee began meeting in March and reviewed the charter. It was determined that the first step to relaunching the coalition will be to hold a community-wide compression planning meeting. Plan to hold it in late Spring.
- During the March coalition meeting, each of these groups met as a small group for a portion of our meeting -- thus allowing the general membership to be involved and to plan future activities (all attendees selected a small group in which to participate). This went well and is something we plan on continuing during all upcoming meetings.
- BEFLA is looking forward to involving our local Health Provider Voice lead into our Screening and Assessment work that is being done through the B3QI Initiative.

### Walla Walla Early Learning Coalition –

- In February, WWELC was able to join two advocacy week meetings with local legislators, Rep. Sklyer Rude and Rep. Mark Klicker. Both of them expressed support for early learning and were very interested in how they could support the needs of children and families.
- Partnership with television station to run Working Connections Child Care expansion PSAs continued, ads are scheduled to run April 1-June 30th.
- Our Dayton Child Care Center workgroup has graphic renderings for a potential center, presented to Columbia County Port Commissioners and is in the process of applying for additional funding from a local trust.
- We are working with public preschool programs and private childcare providers to host a whole child coordination and collaboration meeting series.

## Regional Coalition Update

- We are working with our local parenting education program, school district family engagement and ECE education program to host a training series about social emotional coping strategies for children and adults.

### Asotin Clarkston Early Learning Coalition –

- Preparing for Head Start and early childhood to transition students for the 2022-2023 School year and educating families & community on Transitional Kindergarten.
- On-line registration and opening of Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration.

### Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

For more information please contact: Debbie Ham, [Debbie.ham@selfwa.org](mailto:Debbie.ham@selfwa.org)

*No update to share at this time.*

### Visions for Early Learning, West Central

For more information, please contact: Emily Wilson-Edge, [Emily.wilson-edge@centralia.edu](mailto:Emily.wilson-edge@centralia.edu)

We have great new energy and momentum in our coalition heading into spring. All our county coalition lead roles are now filled, and membership continues to increase in all counties across our region. One benefit is, as new leads come on, they are welcomed, supported, and additionally trained by now-seasoned county leads rather than solely the regional lead. This has proven more effective and efficient, and builds community from the beginning.

Our marketing and communications tools continue to improve and expand. We have received excellent feedback on county newsletters, including one county who's lead polled all 20+ members at the monthly meeting. All members shared they opened it and read it, and several said they forwarded it on to others. While newsletters do include some regional and state information, they primarily focus on local resources and initiatives, and are beginning to be seen as a resource in themselves for the early learning community.

Coalition members have been invited to speak and share about the work they're doing in several settings, including health provider communities and decision making groups. All counties felt energized and engaged with many legislators during session, and were validated when our budget proviso was included in the final budget.

As restrictions are lifted, all counties are moving forward with planning community events. Some are focused on resource sharing and gathering providers while others will be family fun events with agencies engaging by sharing family activities along with their resources. Focus is settling into community engagement, information sharing, fundraising, and year-long advocacy.

Finally, we were given the opportunity to participate in the ECCS Open Referral exploratory grant, including hiring a project lead. Three of our counties have existing coordinated access workgroups and are eager to move forward with more support, direction, and partnership across the state. The remaining two have committed to working with their groups to identify leaders and form groups to participate as well, and all look forward to intentionally exploring individualized options for their communities.

### **WCFC State Updates**

**For more information please contact: Rachel Hall, WCFC State Lead, [rachelh@first5fundamentals.org](mailto:rachelh@first5fundamentals.org)**

### **WCFC Budget Request – Approved**

The Washington State Legislature approved a WCFC budget request of \$900,000 to fill a 6-month gap in operations cost when the Preschool Development Grant ends. We are incredibly grateful to all those who joined in mobilizing around this ask, and for the legislature for supporting us.

### **WCFC Newsletter & Social Media**

In January, we launched a newsletter; a new platform to provide you with current news and information. Over the coming weeks, we will be spotlighting each of the 10-WCFC Regions. We also just launched our social media platforms. You can connect with us in the following ways:

- **Facebook:** WashingtonCFC
- **Instagram and Twitter:** @washington\_cfc
- **Email:** [info@washingtoncfc.org](mailto:info@washingtoncfc.org)
- **Website:** [washingtoncfc.org](http://washingtoncfc.org)
- **To submit content for consideration for future newsletters:** email [news@washingtoncfc.org](mailto:news@washingtoncfc.org)

### **WCFC Learning Networks – Join us!**

There are six statewide Washington Communities for Children Learning Networks. The purpose of these teams is to foster learning and connections across the state, with particular focus in each of the component areas below. Participation is open to anyone, including state and local partners who are interested in shared learning and activities. For meeting schedules, and to get in touch with Learning Network leads, please visit our website at [washingtoncfc.org/learning-networks](http://washingtoncfc.org/learning-networks).

- Data
- Equity
- Family Voice
- Health Provider Voice
- Policy & Advocacy
- Resource Navigation & Access

### **Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant**

WCFC received a portion of the ECCS grant through the Department of Health. The ECCS Grant fits within the Resource Navigation & Access Learning network. In this space, partners learn about existing resource and referral directories and identifying ways to better connect families to services. This has included exploring Open Referral's approach to developing interoperability among resource information systems and open access infrastructure for directory data management. [More information about the approach is available here.](#) Between January and July 2022, Washington Communities for Children will convene a cohort of up to four Regions, with an emphasis on small rural populations. These communities will work with Open Referral to explore and assess options for creating and maintaining localized resource directory information. The focus will be on children and family services for children aged 0-3. This part of the project will be known as Phase 1.